participated actively in the Workshop and expressed their views on the issues relating to Cost of Production of Various Crops. The farmers reiterated the importance of good quality seeds for achieving better results in productivity of crops in India so as to effectively compete with other countries in the international market.

Constraints of land and water for agricultural production

2066. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the land and water are crucial constraints on our efforts to expand production in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study on this aspect; and

(c) the efforts proposed to be made in this direction during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has conducted useful reserach to tide over the situation. Research studies on watershed management, reclamation of salt affected soils, soil and water conservation and utilization of degraded land, control of desertification, improvement in rainfed agriculture, intensive cropping system, on-farm water management, use of poor quality water, drainage of water logged soils, etc. has helped in ameliorating the constraints on land and water resources.

(c) Research programmes in the above areas will be further strengthened during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Cold and heat waves in Orissa

2067. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cold waves and heat waves that Orissa has been experiencing during the recent years, do not find place in the items of expenditure applied by the Ministry in the Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contigency Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that cold and heat waves have become a regular phenomena in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Orissa had reported sometime back deaths due to heat wave. However, no report has been received from the State Government regarding deaths due to cold wave. According to the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), which had made recommendations relating to Calamity Relief for the 5 year period 2000-01 to 2004-05, heat/cold wave has not been included in the list of natural calamities, to be eligible for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/ National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(c) and (d) It is for the Government of Orissa to take appropriate measures in the matter.

Integrated Development of Roots and Tubers in Gujarat

2068. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the Central Scheme of Integrated Development of Roots and Tubers in Gujarat; and

(b) since when the scheme is under implementation in the State and what results have been achieved, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A Central Scheme on Integrated Development of Vegetables which includes Roots and Tuber crops was implemented in the country including Gujarat, during 9th Plan. However, since October, 2000 the scheme has been subsumed in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management of Agriculture—Supplementation/ Complementation of States' efforts through Work Plans. The programmes of the scheme can now be implemented by the State through Work Plans. Under this scheme the states have greater flexibility to prioritise its needs as per the requirement of the State.

(b) The Scheme has been in implementation during 9th Plan period. Under the scheme a Bio- Centre for production of True Potato seed in Gujarat has been established at DEESA, Research Centre of Gujarat Agriculture University. Availability of true Potato seed has helped increase production of Potato in the States.